

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Claim 22 (currently amended). A method of forming an ID kit having contents comprising personal information and unique identifying indicia ~~a device~~ for locating a missing subject, whereby the contents of said kit is retained separately from the subject and from a centralized storage facility, comprising the steps of:

providing a means for interfacing with a portable electronic storage medium;

forming personal information about said subject on said portable storage medium;

forming unique identifying indicia of said subject on said portable storage medium;

forming a software program on said portable storage medium that will function as a kit which is independent of said means for interfacing;

purging the contents formed on said kit from said means for interfacing.

Claim 23 (currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 22 wherein said identifying indicia includes at least one of a personal information field, a photo, a streaming video, a voice recording, and fingerprints; ~~whereby said identifying indicia is retained separately from a centralized database.~~

Claim 24 (currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 23 wherein the means for interfacing with said storage medium comprises ~~contains a memory of a~~ computer.

Claim 25 (previously amended) The method as set forth in claim 23 wherein the storage medium includes at least one of a CD-ROM, a compact disk, a mini disk, a smart card, or any other electronic storage medium.

Claim 26 (cancelled)

Claim 27 (previously amended) The method as set forth in claim 25 wherein selected portions of said identifying indicia is encrypted.

Claim 28 (previously amended) The method as set forth in claim 27 wherein said kit is given to and retained by an entity having legal custody of said subject.

Claim 29 (currently amended) The method as set forth in claim 27 wherein a means for decryption is provided to an appropriate authority for deployment of selected portions of said indicia ~~should the subject go missing~~; whereby asaid ~~asaid~~ means for decryption is retained separately from the entity having legal custody of said subject.

Claim 30 (previously amended) The method as set forth in claim 27 wherein the encrypted indicia includes at least one of; fingerprints, date of birth, social security number, residence, medical conditions, and private or personal data.

Claim 31 (previously amended) The method as set forth in claim 23, wherein said ID device includes a program to update contents of said kit.

Claim 32 (cancelled)

Claim 33 (cancelled)

Claim 34 (previously amended) A method for providing a kit containing personal information to a third entity for use in locating a missing subject, comprising the steps of;

- storing digital physical indicia of the subject on an electronic storage medium in a data format for direct computer dissemination;
- encrypting portions of the data;
- giving possession of the storage medium to a second entity which is separate from, but associated with, the subject;
- providing a means for an authority, with no prior association with the subject or the second entity, to decrypt portions of said data;
- said means for decryption being prepared in advance of dissemination; and,
- utilizing the electronic storage medium to deliver the data to said authority.

Claim 35 (currently amended) An apparatus for ~~enrolling~~ enrollment of identification data for production of an ID kit of a subject comprising;

- a means for entering personal information and identifying indicia of said subject;
- a means for recording a likeness of said subject;
- a means for purging identification data upon completion of enrollment; and,

an apparatus for storing said personal information and said likeness on an electronic memory storage media such that said electronic memory storage media retains said identification data ~~remains~~ after being purged from said apparatus for enrollment.

Claim 36 (currently amended) An apparatus for enrolling identifying data of a subject as in claim 35 wherein said means for entering ~~combining~~ said personal information, and said means for recording said likeness of said subject, ~~and said picture~~ images are on is a computer memory; whereby said identifying data is retained ~~separately from a centralized database.~~

Claim 37 (cancelled)

Claim 38 (currently amended) An apparatus for use by an appropriate authority having a centralized database to assist a parent or a guardian in locating and identifying a missing subject comprising:

- a kit comprising an electronic storage medium containing unique identifying indicia of the subject which is ~~not~~ stored only in the kit ~~by other means;~~
- means for encrypting selected portions of the stored indicia; and

means for formatting said storage medium to enable direct entry of the stored indicia from the storage medium into an electronic communication system of the authority; such that ~~whereby~~ said unique identifying indicia is ~~retained separately from a~~ not found in the centralized database prior to being provided by a parent or a guardian.

Claim 39 (previously amended) The apparatus as set forth in claim 38 wherein the electronic communication system includes an email.

Claim 40 (previously amended) The apparatus as set forth in claim 38 wherein the electronic communication system includes broadcast media.

Claim 41 (currently amended) A method ~~An apparatus for providing a key for~~ decrypting personal information to an appropriate authority for use in identifying a missing subject as part of a search-missing subject search comprising;

providing a kit comprising electronic storage medium storing digital physical indicia of the subject in a data format for direct computer dissemination,

~~means for encrypting portions~~ of the data; and,

providing a means for decrypting said encrypted portions; ~~and,~~

whereby ~~means for delivering said key~~ is delivered to the authority in advance of dissemination of said data.

Claim 42 (previously amended) A method for organizing a search for a missing individual, having stages of escalation during the search, comprising the steps of:

providing a guardian of the individual a kit including a picture ID card of the individual and an electronic storage media comprising unique identifying indicia of the individual including encrypted forensic indicia;

utilizing the picture ID to begin a stage one search should the individual go missing;

utilizing the electronic storage media to initiate a successive search, if necessary, to electronically disseminate certain identifying indicia to involved third parties; and,

utilizing a decryption key to initiate a successive search, if necessary, to electronically disseminate certain encrypted indicia of a forensic or private nature to an appropriate authority.

Claim 43 (previously amended) The method as set forth in claim 42 including the step of providing at least one of a streaming video and a streaming audio of the individual as part of the stored indicia.

Claim 44 (previously amended) The method as set forth in claim 42 including the step of providing a set of digital fingerprints of the individual as part of the encrypted forensic indicia.